February 11, 1975

decide that the prairie chicken is endangered period and wipe out the hunting season that Nebraska enjoys because we have an ample population. Another one that should concern the ranchers up in Senator Kime's area, the prairie dog. What happens if the federal government decides that the prairie dog is endangered? What happens to our control programs that we would develop here through our Department of Agriculture? They are wiped out. So I think that it is in the interest of, not only of giving us a means of dealing with monitoring these species, attempting to develop a means of protecting them, but also in addressing itself to the control problems, the depredation problems that agriculture people might have with something like the prairie dogs so I think it is very important that we defeat this motion and pass the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, I have a question of Senator Syas. I intend to support the bill because I believe in it but there is a fiscal note that bothers me. I do not believe that the Games and Parks Commission has that great of a responsibility right now in terms of this bill and its enforcement. Why did we stay just under \$50,000?

SENATOR SYAS: I've talked to the Chairman of Budget and they have agreed to \$24,000, I think it is \$500, instead of the \$49,000 that they requested because even I was opposed to that. I said they could, they didn't need all of the stuff to enforce this law of \$49,000 so that's been a, more or less, hopefully agreed to that the Game Commission has come down to \$24,000, I think it is \$24,500. I am not--\$24,000 something in other words.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Syas a question or two. Did you mention there would be hunting and fishing fees involved in the support of this.

SENATOR SYAS: There will not.

SENATOR SCHMIT: There will not be. I didn't think so because it does mention General Funds money.

SENATOR SYAS: No, specifically, I might say that since this, an endangered species, since it is for the general public, we would be unfair. It is something that is not on the hunting or fishing list to be supported by the hunting and fishing licenses. No, this is not. It will be General Funds. \$24,000 something.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is this money included in the General Fund or is it, or will it require an "A" bill.

 ${\tt SENATOR}$ SYAS: It will require an act of the, funding from the Budget Committee.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I see and does this have the approval of the Governor's office. Have you checked for his approval?

SENATOR SYAS: I have never checked with the Governor on the introduction of bills, no.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I just wondered because we are talking a lot about the cost of these things and I think we should bear in